for HPT, Mussoorie (DD1 and DD News) is twenty-three. For twelve LPTs., the sanctioned staff strength varies between 5 and 15. There are no sanctioned posts for four LPTs. and at these stations, certain staff has been provided by way of transfer from other stations. All VLPTs. and Transposers are unmanned installations.

(d) While fifty-one transmitters (HPT-1, LPTs. 15, VLPTs. 33 and Transposers 2) relay DD1 channel programmes, two transmitters (one each of LPT and HPT) relay DD News channel programmes. Doordarshan Kendra, Dehradun is engaged in making programmes and covering local/ regional activities/events for telecast from the transmitter at Mussoorie, Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow and DD News.

(e) With the launch of the Doordarshan's Ku band (Direct-to-Home free-to-air mode) transmission service from 16th Dec. 2004, its bouquet comprising, 33 TV channels and 12A.I.R. channels are also available to the listeners throughout the country (except A&N Islands) including Uttaranchal which can be received with the help of a small sized dish receive units. There, therefore, is no proposal to set up any other transmitter in the State.

Expanding channel network under DTH

1280. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister, of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether Doordarshan is thinking of expanding channel networking under DTH to 100 channels;

if so, by when this project would be completed; and

what is the financial outlay earmarked for such a huge work?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Doordarshan is in the process of acquiring additional hardware to increase the number of TV channels in its free-to-air DTH service from thirty three to fifty at an estimated cost of Rs. 15.84 crore, which is expected to be completed by June, 2006. Besides, there is also a proposal from Prasar Bharati to further increase the number of channels to one hundred at an estimated cost of Rs. 64.74 crore for which no time frame has been evolved.